

Erith Town Forum Annual General Meeting 2017



Thursday 27th April 2017
Bexley College (Erith Campus), Walnut Tree Road, Erith

Attendance:

Forum Members:

Doreen Ives (Chair), DJ Akande (Erith Riverside Residents Association), Bill Brookes (Erith Playhouse Theatre), Alison Fisher (Erith Rowing Club), Nicola King (Erith Riverside Shopping Centre), Jerry Martin (Erith Safer Neighbourhood Panel), Rev. Rob Radcliffe (St Johns Church West St), Dennis Roberts (Baptist Church, Erith), Alec Tapper (FORGE), Rosemary White (Erith Park) Cllr Edward Boateng

Members of the Public:

L Finch, Peter Kilner, Irwin Parkhurst, Sarah Batten, (The Exchange Project) Peter Nuttley (The Exchange Project), Luisa Baker (Lighthouse Project), Kevin Kingston, (LBB), Janet Baxter, Gill Davies, Tanya Harris, Sue Cummins, Joan McCarthy, Chris Wakeman, Janet Mace, Chris Mace, Ken Chamberlain, Duncan Brobie, Eileen Brobie, Roy Hobson, Sumeet Malda, Gurpreet Anand.

Apologies:

Joan Armitage, Chris Broadbent, Lorraine Davidson, Cllr Joe Ferreira, Cllr Abena Oppong-Asare

Item	Notes of Meeting	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and ordinary meetings of the Forum and gave the following announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please ensure that you sign in at the front desk for the college, as well as the meeting attendance sheet. • Fire assembly point and Toilets and refreshments • Aim to finish at 9pm, need to be out of the building by 9:15pm • The apologies listed above were received • As there were no names tags available, the chair asked the Board members to introduce themselves and the organisation they represent. 	
2.	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Kevin Kingston – Interim Programme Manager for Erith. Based at the Civic Centre in Bexleyheath.</p> <p>Kevin stated that the council had chosen a team to run the Carnegie Building once refurbished. They are called the Exchange Project and are Sarah Batten Peter Nutley, and Sorrell Ferguson.</p> <p>The process for choosing the design and architect team is coming to an end and they hope to make an announcement within the next 2/3weeks. They then hope to appoint a contractor for the works by the beginning of the autumn, with a completion date of May/June 2018</p> <p>The building will then be handed over to the Exchange as the commercial operator for the building. They will be running this as a social enterprise and will need to make the building financially sustainable.</p>	

Sarah Pullen and Peter Nutley - The Exchange Project

Sarah stated she had a background in Museums, fundraising and regeneration. Peter has a background in art and looking after listed buildings. A third member of their team is Sorrell Ferguson, who has a background in café and menu design, she is currently on maternity leave. Their vision is for the venue to be the heart of the community, to celebrate the history of the Carnegie building, whilst providing a venue for arts, heritage and community space.

There will be opportunities for:

- Artists, innovators, designer makers and entrepreneurs
- Volunteering and employment opportunities
- Schools and adult learning opportunities

The project has to be financially sustainable and not rely on external funding.

The building will be divided into 3 sections: Live, Work and Play

Live – Located on the Ground floor, will include Arts/heritage, Public forum, Market place, Venue hire

Work – Located on the Upper floor will include, Studio spaces available for hire for artists/makers/start-up businesses, 2- 3 large workshops spaces, Digital suite for public use and other Income streams to help fund the programme

Play – Located in the Basement will include Café and bar with guest chefs and healthy menus, Live music and dancing. It is planned that this area will be open during the day and evening.

If you have any ideas please contact

Email : Theexchangeerith@gmail.com

Next steps: They are entering the detailed design period, they hope to be able to bring more details to the next meeting in July.

The Lighthouse Project – Kevin Kingston and Luisa Baker

The Lighthouse Project is for a moveable structure as a pop up restaurant in Erith this summer.

This will be located at:

- Riverside gardens in the corner at the end of July for 3 weeks
- The Pier head outside Morrisons in September for 3 weeks
- The structure will be given to the Exchange project after this.

The structure which has been funded by the GLA, is still in the design stage but will resemble a lighthouse with a light on top, and seating outside.

This will open Thursday to Sunday with guest chefs for each evening. The restaurant will use local produce and have daytime activities for families.

Questions

Q: Will there be an opportunity to do something at Christmas?

A: Yes this will be in partnership with the Exchange Project

Q: Will there be an opportunity for the museum to return to the Carnegie building?

A: The team would like to see a return of key historical objects to the centre but this may not be possible as a permanent feature. The need to make the

	<p><i>building sustainable means that room must be made for activities that will bring income into the project. They would like to stage temporary exhibitions to celebrate the history of the area, including historical walks in the area.</i></p> <p><i>Q: What has happened to the exhibits from the museum?</i> <i>A: These are in the council archives</i></p> <p><i>Q: Will the historical features of the building be saved?</i> <i>A: Yes, it will be 100% protected. The renovation will be conservation led with architects and contractors that have conservation credentials. The whole building grade 2 listed, including the building structure, fabric and internal features, applications will be made for all works and the renovations will be closely monitored. Grant funding of £10,000 has been awarded to save the weather vane at the top of the building,</i></p> <p><i>Q: The Exchange project asked what memories of the building would the community like to be told?</i> <i>A: It was agreed that a separate meeting would be organised for residents to feed information in to the Project</i> <i>If you would like to be involved please contact Doreen Ives.</i></p> <p><i>Q: The building was donated by Carnegie with the understanding that it would be looked after by the local council, it would appear that the council are handing over this responsibility and are more concerned with profit and loss.</i> <i>A: Kevin Kingston said that the council had been looking for a way to open the building to the community since it closed in 2009. As with all councils they are facing financial constraints and the project has to be self-sustaining and not rely on any funds from the local tax payers.</i> <i>Q: It was felt that the new plans concentrated on the commercial aspects of the café</i> <i>A: The project are keen to have a strong heritage programme but that this needed to be funded. They have applied for funding through the Lottery Reaching Communities fund, and if successful will be able to develop the building for more community events and services.</i></p> <p><i>Q: It seems that this project is being presented as a Fait accompli, the community have not had any involvement in the choice of commercial operator or what happens to the building?</i> <i>A: The project would like to know what the community want to see in the building and they are open to ideas. This will be discussed at the separate meeting that Doreen will organise.</i> <i>Q: It was suggested that Rosemary White should be included in the meeting as she has a lot of knowledge about the building and the area.</i> <i>A: Agreed, Doreen will contact.</i></p> <p><i>Doreen thanked the speakers for attending the meeting.</i></p>	<p>ALL/DI</p>
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	<p>Chairs report The Chair gave a report on the Forum’s activities and meetings in 2016/17. <i>(Please see the attached report).</i> <i>New initiatives for 2017</i> Have we had our day? The chair stated that the reason for the forum was to campaign and support the regeneration of Erith and improvement to the waterfront area. It was felt that a lot had been achieved and there was concern what was next for the Forum. Doreen is attending a course with BVSC to monitor the impact of the organisation and there are a number of new initiatives for 2017/18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a bigger response to meetings • Publicity for the Forum and the activities • Appointment of paid minute taker, Nicola Taylor, the chair thanked John Abbott who had previously taken the minutes. • Increase use of social media – appeal for volunteers to help with this. • Fill vacancies on the Board particularly from local businesses, Ethnic Minority groups, Pensioners Forum, Erith Yacht club • To have a stall at the Erith Fun Day on the 15th July – if you are available to help please contact Doreen. • To talk to the local housing association to add a leaflet about the forum in welcome packs to new tenants. • It was suggested that the council may be able to add a leaflet in the council tax bills. Doreen to contact the council. 	DI
	<p>Treasurers report The Treasurer is currently in Australia so there is no formal report. The council gave the funds for the Christmas tree in Erith centre and there were no other monies spent. The funds currently stand at £1720.82 It was felt that some of the monies could be used for leaflets to publicise the forum.</p>	
3.	<p>Membership report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of vacancies on the board, does anyone have any contacts in local organisations that might like to join? • Cllr Edward Baoteng has the details for the Commodore of the Erith Yacht club, he will forward to Doreen 	EB/DI
4.	<p>Election of officers for 2017/2018 The Forum constitution states that officers are elected each year at the AGM. Doreen has had no notification of anyone wishing to stand or resign. Election of Chair. Nominated - Doreen Ives, Proposed by Rev,Rob Ratcliffe, Seconded by Dennis Roberts. All agreed and Doreen was elected unanimously It was proposed that the other officers were elected on block if they wish to stand. This was agreed and they were elected unanimously. They are: Vice Chair – Dennis Roberts, Vice Chair – Lorraine Davidson and Treasurer – Joan Armitage</p>	